WHAT IS CLAIMED:

- Claim 1. A composition for the therapeutic modulation of one or more matrix metalloproteinases comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one metal ion selected from zinc, rubidium, or a combination of ions of zinc and rubidium, in a physiologically inert carrier.
- Claim 2. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of calcium ions.
- Claim 3. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.
- Claim 4. The composition of Claim 2 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.
- Claim 5. The composition of Claim 1 and including an acid suitable for adjusting the pH of the composition.
- Claim 6. The composition of Claim 5 wherein said acid is citric acid.
- Claim 7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition includes polyethylene glycol.
- Claim 8. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.
- Claim 9. The composition of Claim 1 comprising a mixture of pharmaceutically effective amounts of each of ions of zinc and rubidium in a physiologically inert carrier, said mixture have a substantially neutral pH.
- Claim 10. The composition of Claim 9 wherein said carrier comprises polyethylene glycol.

- Claim 11. The composition of Claim 9 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of ions of calcium.
- Claim 12. The composition of Claim 9 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.
- Claim 13. A composition for demodulating matrix metalloproteinases 2 and/or 9 comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a solution containing ions of zinc and rubidium.
- Claim 14. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.
- Claim 15. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.
- Claim 16. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of calcium ions.
- Claim 17. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of each of potassium and calcium ions.
- Claim 18. The composition of Claim 13 and including polyethylene glycol.
- Claim 19. The composition of Claim 13 wherein said composition exhibits a pH of substantially 5.0.
- Claim 20. A method for demodulating matrix metalloproteinases 2 and/or 9 comprising the administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a solution containing ions of rubidium to a patient in need thereof.
- Claim 21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said solution includes zinc ions.

- Claim 22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said solution contains a channeling agent.
- Claim 23. The method of Claim 21 wherein said solution includes potassium ions.
- Claim 23. The method of Claim 21 wherein said solution includes calcium ions.
- Claim 24. The method of Claim 20 wherein the pH of said solution is adjusted to about 5.0.
- Claim 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein said pH of said solution is adjusted employing citric acid.